

Defend the Faith
1 Timothy 1
Part Two

Introduction: Paul's overriding purpose was to equip and challenge Timothy to establish a healthy church. The primary role of the church is to hold up the Word of God and defend its truth to the world. There are four ways that Paul gives to equip the church to defend the faith:

I. **Confront False Teachers 1:3-7**

II. **Confirm the True Purpose of the Law 1:9-11**

- To restrain sin in the world
- To condemn sinners
- To sanctify Christians

III. **Consider Paul's Testimony 1:12-17**

The gospel is not merely to be protected and preserved but celebrated! Perhaps the greatest testimony of God's saving grace is the testimony of the apostle Paul.

"Christ Jesus" – Paul met the Lord on the road to Damascus and saw the risen Christ. He came to earth to be the earthly "Jesus" to redeem the world.

"came into the world" – He was eternally existent with the Father in heaven before He came to earth as a man. The term "world (KOSMOS)" refers to the world of unbelieving sinners (John 3:17; 12:46-47).

"to save sinners" – Christ came to rescue us from darkness to light; from death to life (Mat 1:21; Luke 19:10; Col 1:13-14). He did not come to save the righteous, but sinners (Luke 5:31-32).

"of whom I am foremost" – From Paul's perspective he was the WORST SINNER (1:13)!

1. He was a blasphemer Acts 26:11; 9:3-5
2. He was a persecutor of Christians Acts 8:3; 9:1
3. He was violent ("insolent opponent") Acts 9:13

But Paul's story did not stop there...

"I received mercy" – Grace removes guilt; mercy removes the misery that accompanies the guilt (Heb 4:16).

Paul's testimony is shared to give us all HOPE in the grace of God (1:14)! God's grace is super-abounding ("overflowed"). It brings with it faith and love:

- He gives us grace to trust Him Eph 2:8-9
- He gives us grace to love Him and others (1:5; Eph 1:15; 3:17; 6:23).

1 Timothy 1:15-16 – God’s purpose in saving Paul was to show His mercy and the **power** of His grace:

- If God could save Paul, He can save **anyone!**
- God showed incredible **patience** with Paul.
- God could save the world’s worst **sinner** and transform him into the world’s greatest **Christian**.

The ultimate purpose of God’s saving grace is to **GLORIFY** HIMSELF (Eph 1:3-6, 11-14). That is how Paul responds after rehearsing his testimony of God’s grace (1:17).

- He is King of the ages – He is eternally present in **history** and **eternity**.
- He is immortal – He has conquered **death** and **hell** (1 Cor 15:20-22)
- He is invisible (unseen) – Paul continued to see Jesus with his **spiritual** eyes.
- He is the **ONLY** GOD!

Study Questions:

1. How does hearing a personal testimony of God’s saving grace in a life help to confirm the truth of the gospel?
2. What is the value of remembering what you were before you were once saved? Read Titus 3:2-6 and note the relationship between looking down on unbelievers for their behavior and recalling our past condition before we were saved.
3. As you look back on your salvation experience, what role did God play in your salvation? What role did you play? Do your answers comply with the biblical description of salvation?
4. Have you ever considered a person so lost in their sinful lifestyle that they could not possibly be saved, yet discover later that God saved them and transformed their lives? Share those experiences with the group.
5. Read Paul’s doxology in verse 17. What does it mean to you that God is...
 - The King of the ages –
 - Immortal
 - Invisible
 - The **ONLY** God